DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CRC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 06-07
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

OT 343 SCS

6450 (584)

July 5, 1978

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am replying to your recent letter enclosing correspondence which alleges that certain U.S. citizens are being held in Guyana against their will.

As part of the Foreign Service's traditional obligation to provide appropriate assistance and protection to American citizens residing abroad, officers of the American Embassy in Georgetown, Guyana, periodically visit the Peoples Agricultural Temple located at Jonestown, Guyana. These officers have been free to move about the grounds and speak privately to any individual, including persons who were believed by their family and friends to be held there against their will. It is the opinion of these officers, reinforced by conversations with local officials who deal with the Peoples Temple, that it is improbable anyone is being held in bondage. In general, the people appear healthy, adequately fed and housed and satisfied with their lives on what is a large farm. Many do hard, physical labor but there is no evidence of persons being forced to work beyond their capacity or against their will.

Should you have a specific individual about whom you want information, please provide the name of the person and the person's date and place of birth to the Office of Special Consular Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. During the next visit to the Peoples Temple by an officer of the American Embassy, that officer will attempt to speak privately with the individual in question, convey your concern and report to you.

The Honorable
Dante B. Fascell, Chairman,
Subcommittee on International Operations,
Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives.

If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Rudolph L. Rivera in our Office of Special Consular Services, telephone 632-9461.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Bennet, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosures:
Correspondence returned.

CA/SCS/RLRivera/mre/wp
Ext 23015 6/26/78
P96-0555

Clearances: SCS-Mr. Dobrenchuk
SCS-Miss Day
CA-Miss Watson
H-Mr. Krizek

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST Rep. Wm. Bill Young

MICROFILM NO. 105-2259

Interim telephone reply to Alice Weller
(name of staffer)

7/13 (date), by E&O'Kane (SCS officer)

PLEASE INITIAL THAT FOLLOWING HA[illegible] BEEN INFORMED:
H - George Winnett ext. 21608 - by phone
SCA - Message Center - by immediately sending an extra copy of the control ticket properly annotated.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Responded by phone

COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL RECORD	DATE RECEIVED	A 124010

FROM

SUBJECT

REF ID	7/3 - handled by Rose GP		
DATE			
DATE REPLY DUE	DATE REPLY SENT	PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF	

2-FOLLOWUP COPY 58102-101

OPTIONAL FORM 102 (4-75)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.3

COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL RECORD	DATE RECEIVED	A

FROM

SUBJECT

RFRD			
DATE			

DATE REPLY DUE	DATE REPLY SENT	PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF

4-RECORD COPY 58103-101

OPTIONAL FORM 102 (4-75)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.3

URGENT

A CONGRESSIONAL - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

A reply or written acknowledgment must be made within Three Working Days. *(See 5 FAM 1524.3 or H - Guide Lines).*

If for any reason, a problem is anticipated, drafting officer should immediately call H - Extensions 21608, 21609 or 28358.

M-118
3-62